Ray Gets 1-2 Years in Prison Escape

WARTBURG, Tenn. — A judge has sentenced James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of Martin Luther King Jr., to an additional one to two years in prison for his escape last summer from a rural East Tennessee prison.

Judge Lee Asbury of Criminal Court ordered yesterday that the sentence be served after Ray completes his 99-year term for murdering the civil rights leader.

A jury of nine men and three women convicted Ray on the escape charge following a one-day trial Oct. 27 and recommended the 1-to-2 year term, the minimum allowed under the law.

Appearing before Asbury on Wednesday for sentencing, Ray announced he plans to appeal the verdict.